

## JOINT COMMUNIQUE REGARDING CURRENT DOE PROGRAMS IN THE RMI

The **annual** meeting between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Republic of the **Marshall Islands (RMI)** was convened on June 13-14, 2001, in **Honolulu, HI**. Participants at the **annual** meeting reviewed agenda items established by the RMI and discussed **jointly** at a pre-meeting at the **RMI Embassy** in Washington D.C. on June 5, 2001. We jointly discussed these agenda issues as well as local **atoll** community issues/needs during the meeting and reviewed ideas on how to continue needed support for DOE **programs**. Also present was Senator Maynard **Alfred**, representing the people of **Ailuk Atoll**, who **also** have **radiological** concerns.

### Current DOE programs:

#### Environmental programs:

- Environmental monitoring of radionuclides at Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik;
- Whole body counting and **limited** bioassay at Rongelap and Enewetak.

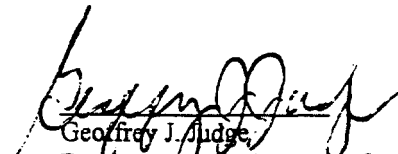
#### Medical programs:


- Monitoring and care for radiogenic illnesses for the people of Rongelap and Utrik **resulting** from exposure to fallout from the Bravo weapons test on March 1, 1954.

### Agreed path forward:

It was agreed that a working group be established to meet initially at a mutually agreeable time and location **within** 3 months of this annual meeting. The charge for the working group will be to formulate a **5-year** strategic **plan** by October 1, 2002, that addresses the programs within DOE's control. The **strategic** plan will set forth an agreed path forward on the following matters of concern raised during the June 13- 14, 2001, DOE-RMI annual meeting, and on any other matters as mutually agreed:

- Clean-up and remediation strategies on the four atolls based on a holistic approach that engages **local** communities in accordance with RMI standards;
- **Complete** DOE's production of documents and records relating to the testing program, and search for **RMI-identified** documents related to fallout on Ujelang;
- Amend the Enewetak-DOE MOU to characterize the level and extent of hot particle contamination on **Runit** Island with a view towards recommending remediation strategies;
- Release of the Brookhaven National Laboratory whole body **counting** and urinalysis raw data;
- Short-term and long-term plans for environmental monitoring at Bikini Atoll;
- Conclusion of an MOU with the Utrik community to address individual and environmental radiological monitoring;
- Restructure the DOE health care program for the populations of Utrik and Rongelap to achieve more effective delivery of care, including a more direct feedback mechanism to inform DOE of any problems;
- Need long-term stewardship programs for sites in the RMI with long-lived wastes, including monitoring of the **Runit** Dome to ensure its integrity.

  
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JUNE 14, 2001  
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